

armed services on their own volition, but John was an exception, and his spirit of patriotism and selflessness would serve him well throughout his career. In 1974, a young John Lynch donned cap and gown and accepted his bachelor's degree in Industrial Education and earned a commission as an Ensign. Leaving the comfortable and familiar campus of The College of New Jersey, he headed south to the hot, humid weather of the Florida panhandle and the vocal, uncompromising, and unforgiving Marine Corps Drill Instructors who put the aviation candidates through their paces and initiated them into the life of the military.

By the time then Ensign Lynch graduated from flight school, Vietnamization was fully in place and responsibility for prosecuting the war was squarely on the shoulders of the Republic of Vietnam. Though American military personnel were no longer involved in a "shooting war", the United States was certainly locked into a tense, dangerous, and sometimes deadly Cold War with communist nations. During this period in our history, the United States and, primarily, the former Soviet Union stared at each other over fortified borders, and tested each other's defenses and military capabilities. Certainly one key element in how this Cold War was prosecuted was anti-submarine warfare, where American and Soviet submariners shadowed and evaded each other and the ships and aircraft that tried to detect and monitor their activities. It was as a part of this nuclear weapons cat and mouse game that John Lynch cut his teeth as a young Naval officer and aviator, flying operations looking for Soviet submarines.

As many will remember, the Cold War would heat up from time to time, and there was a period in the 1980's when events in the Middle East forced the United States to use force to protect our citizens, interests, and security. Inflammatory and hateful rhetoric espoused by radical leaders, coupled with things such as the infamous "Line of Death", the bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut, and a campaign of terror directed at the United States and her allies that brought American military assets to bear in the Mediterranean, and John Lynch was among those deployed to that region. As a matter of fact, as the Officer in Charge of the Navy's first dual SH-60B helicopter detachment aboard the U.S.S. *Halyburton* as it conducted operations off the coast of Libya, John logged nine combat flights in support of the fleet. Those experiences demonstrated the competence, composure, and courage of John Lynch, the essential qualities of any successful leader, whether he or she be in the military, the government, or the private sector. They certainly benefitted him, and those who served under him in HSL-42, during Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

Of course, Captain Lynch's career was not all dangerous missions flown

in the cramped cockpit of Navy helicopters, throughout his 24-years in the service, he held a number of different assignments that promoted Naval rotor wing aviation, including at IBM; Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego; Naval Aide and Flag Secretary at Naval Air Station Jacksonville; and on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations for Surface Warfare. He earned a Master's Degree from the University of Southern California while he was stationed in San Diego. He also participated in the LEGIS Fellows Program, serving as a Military Legislative Assistant to my friend, United States Representative Tillie Fowler.

It was during his almost three year tenure as Director of Senate Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense that we came to know John Lynch. In that position, the Captain was responsible for being the liaison between the Department of Defense and all Senators and their staffers, though his primary interaction was with the members and staff of the Armed Services Committee. A gregarious and competent man, Captain Lynch was an excellent representative of the Secretary of Defense who rendered an important service, helped facilitate positive relations between the Pentagon and the Senate, and made certain that the positions of the Secretary of Defense and the Executive Branch were well represented. He was unquestionably professional and accommodating and he set an excellent example for all those who worked for him in the Office of Senate Affairs, as well as for his successor.

After more than 20 years in service to the Navy and the Nation, it must be difficult for Captain Lynch to begin a new career, but he can look back on his time as a Naval Officer and take great satisfaction and pride in a job well done. His efforts helped to assure that the United States and her citizens were well protected, and I know Captain Lynch must be proud that his eldest son, Shaun, has chosen to follow in his father's public spirited footsteps by attending the Naval Academy and serving the Nation. I wish John Lynch, his wife Linda, son Shaun, and daughters Laurne and Kelly health, happiness, and success in the years to come.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, February 2, 1998, the Federal debt stood at \$5,483,592,532,096.82 (Five trillion, four hundred eighty-three billion, five hundred ninety-two million, five hundred thirty-two thousand, ninety-six dollars and eighty-two cents).

Five years ago, February 2, 1993, the Federal debt stood at \$4,177,801,000,000 (Four trillion, one hundred seventy-seven billion, eight hundred one million).

Ten years ago, February 2, 1988, the Federal debt stood at \$2,463,053,000,000 (Two trillion, four hundred sixty-three billion, fifty-three million).

Fifteen years ago, February 2, 1983, the Federal debt stood at \$1,200,725,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred billion, seven hundred twenty-five million).

Twenty-five years ago, February 2, 1973, the Federal debt stood at \$449,134,000,000 (Four hundred forty-nine billion, one hundred thirty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of over \$5 trillion—\$5,034,458,532,096.82 (Five trillion, thirty-four billion, four hundred fifty-eight million, five hundred thirty-two thousand, ninety-six dollars and eighty-two cents) during the past 25 years.

#### MARKING THE 65TH BIRTHDAY OF SENATOR PAUL SARBANES

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I would like today to pay tribute to one of my most esteemed colleagues on the occasion of his birthday. For, sixty-five years ago, in Salisbury, Maryland, two Greek immigrants named Spyros and Matina Sarbanes gave birth to a child, whom they named Paul. I, for one, have no doubt—although history does not provide confirmation of my conjecture—that within a few days, or perhaps weeks, of this event, young Paul had begun the earnest and impassioned learning that would distinguish him throughout his life.

This learning has paid dividends throughout the life and career of PAUL SARBANES. It won him a scholarship to Princeton—from where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa—and earned him a Rhodes Scholarship. Thence, he proceeded to Harvard Law School and a prestigious clerkship with a federal appellate court judge. After conquering such mountains early on, he might have been forgiven for resting on his laurels, but these early triumphs proved to be simply prologue to further achievements. Senator SARBANES' drive and his intelligence propelled him from a law firm to the Maryland House of Delegates, then on to the U.S. House, and, in 1976, to the U.S. Senate. How wonderfully appropriate that the year in which this country celebrated its bicentennial it should also witness, in the election of Senator SARBANES, confirmation of the basic American tenet that any man—even the child of immigrants—can rise to the highest levels in this country! And who better than Senator SARBANES to prove that the American meritocracy, which rewards extraordinary wisdom and diligence, endures?

For over two decades, I have been privileged to work alongside Senator SARBANES. I have learned in that time to put down whatever business I have before me and pay careful attention when this man speaks on the floor. For I know that whatever words issue forth from his mouth will be the result of careful consideration, intelligent analysis, and a nuanced balancing of the facts. These qualities distinguish Senator SARBANES' remarks, and they are the reason why this man epitomizes for